2 ESDRAS 10

1611 KING JAMES VERSION

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10:1 And it so came to pass, that when my son was entered into his wedding chamber, he fell down, and died.
10:2 Then we all overthrew the lights, and all my neighbours rose up

to comfort me: so I took my rest unto the second day at night.

10:3 And it came to pass, when they had all left off to comfort me, to the end I might be quiet; then rose I up by night and fled, and came hither into this field,

as thou seest.
10:4 And I do now purpose not to return into the city, but here to stay, and neither to eat nor drink, but continually to mourn and to fast until I die.
10:5 Then left I the meditations wherein I was, and spake to

her in anger, saying,
10:6 Thou foolish
woman above all
other, seest thou not
our mourning, and
what happeneth unto
us? 10:7 How that
Sion our mother is
full of all heaviness,
and much humbled,
mourning very sore?

10:8 And now, seeing we all mourn and are sad, for we are all in heaviness, art thou grieved for one son?
10:9 For ask the earth, and she shall tell thee, that it is she which ought to mourn for the fall of so many that grow

upon her. 10:10 For out of her came all at the first, and out of her shall all others come, and, behold, they walk almost all into destruction, and a multitude of them is utterly rooted out. 10:11 Who then should make more

mourning than she, that hath lost so great a multitude; and not thou, which art sorry but for one?

10:12 But if thou sayest unto me, My lamentation is not like the earth's, because I have lost the fruit of my womb,

which I brought forth with pains, and bare with sorrows;

10:13 But the earth not so: for the multitude present in it according to the course of the earth is gone, as it came:

10:14 Then say I unto thee, Like as thou

hast brought forth with labour; even so the earth also hath given her fruit, namely, man, ever since the beginning unto him that made her. 10:15 Now therefore keep thy sorrow to thyself, and bear with a good

courage that which hath befallen thee.
10:16 For if thou shalt acknowledge the determination of God to be just, thou shalt both receive thy son in time, and shalt be commended among women. 10:17 Go thy way then into the city

to thine husband.
10:18 And she said unto me, That will I not do: I will not go into the city, but here will I die. 10:19 So I proceeded to speak further unto her, and said, 10:20 Do not so, but be counselled. by me: for how many

are the adversities of Sion? be comforted in regard of the sorrow of Jerusalem.
10:21 For thou seest that our sanctuary is laid waste, our altar broken down, our temple destroyed;
10:22 Our psaltery is laid on the ground,

our song is put to silence, our rejoicing is at an end, the light of our candlestick is put out, the ark of our covenant is spoiled, our holy things are defiled, and the name that is called upon us is almost profaned: our

children are put to shame, our priests are burnt, our Levites are gone into captivity, our virgins are defiled, and our wives ravished; our righteous men carried away, our little ones destroyed, our young men are

brought in bondage, and our strong men are become weak;
10:23 And, which is the greatest of all, the seal of Sion hath now lost her honour; for she is delivered into the hands of them that hate us.
10:24 And therefore

shake off thy great heaviness, and put away the multitude of sorrows, that the Mighty may be merciful unto thee again, and the Highest shall give thee rest and ease from thy labour.

10:25 And it came to

pass while I was talking with her, behold, her face upon a sudden shined exceedingly, and her countenance glistered, so that I was afraid of her, and mused what it might be. 10:26 And, behold, suddenly she made a

great cry very fearful: so that the earth shook at the noise of the woman. 10:27 And I looked, and, behold, the woman appeared unto me no more, but there was a city builded, and a large place shewed itself from the

foundations: then was I afraid, and cried with a loud voice, and said,
10:28 Where is Uriel the angel, who came unto me at the first? for he hath caused me to fall into many trances, and mine end is turned into

corruption, and my prayer to rebuke.
10:29 And as I was speaking these words behold, he came unto me, and looked upon me.
10:30 And, lo, I lay as one that had been dead, and mine understanding was

taken from me: and he took me by the right hand, and comforted me, and set me upon my feet, and said unto me,

10:31 What aileth thee? and why art thou so disquieted? and why is thine understanding

troubled, and the thoughts of thine heart? 10:32 And I said, Because thou hast forsaken me, and yet I did according to thy words, and I went into the field, and, lo, I have seen, and yet see, that I am not

able to express.
10:33 And he said unto me, Stand up manfully, and I will advise thee.
10:34 Then said I, Speak on, my lord, in me; only forsake me not, lest I die frustrate of my hope.
10:35 For I have seen

that I knew not, and hear that I do not know. 10:36 Or is my sense deceived, or my soul in a dream? 10:37 Now therefore I beseech thee that thou wilt shew thy servant of this vision. 10:38 He answered me then, and said,

Hear me, and I shall inform thee, and tell thee wherefore thou art afraid: for the Highest will reveal many secret things unto thee. 10:39 He hath seen that thy way is right: for that thou sorrowest continually for thy

people, and makest great lamentation for Sion. 10:40 This therefore is the meaning of the vision which thou lately sawest: 10:41 Thou sawest a woman mourning, and thou begannest to comfort her: 10:42 But now

seest thou the likeness of the woman no more, but there appeared unto thee a city builded.
10:43 And whereas she told thee of the death of her son, this is the solution:
10:44 This woman, whom thou sawest is

Sion: and whereas she said unto thee, even she whom thou seest as a city builded,

10:45 Whereas, I say, she said unto thee, that she hath been thirty years barren: those are the thirty years wherein there

was no offering made in her. 10:46 But after thirty years Solomon builded the city and offered offerings: and then bare the barren a son. 10:47 And whereas she told thee that she nourished him with labour: that was the

dwelling in Jerusalem. 10:48 But whereas she said unto thee, That my son coming into his marriage chamber happened to have a fail, and died: this was the destruction that came to Jerusalem. 10:49 And,

behold, thou sawest her likeness, and because she mourned for her son, thou begannest to comfort her: and of these things which have chanced, these are to be opened unto thee. 10:50 For now the most High

seeth that thou art grieved unfeignedly, and sufferest from thy whole heart for her, so hath he shewed thee the brightness of her glory, and the comeliness of her beauty: 10:51 And therefore I bade thee

remain in the field where no house was builded: 10:52 For I knew that the Highest would shew this unto thee. 10:53 Therefore I commanded thee to go into the field, where no foundation of any building was.

10:54 For in the place wherein the Highest beginneth to shew his city, there can no man's building be able to stand.
10:55 And therefore fear not, let not thine heart be affrighted, but go thy way in, and see the beauty

and greatness of the building, as much as thine eyes be able to see: 10:56 And then shalt thou hear as much as thine ears may comprehend. 10:57 For thou art blessed above many other, and art called with the Highest; and

so are but few.
10:58 But to morrow at night thou shalt remain here;
10:59 And so shall the Highest shew thee visions of the high things, which the most High will do unto them that dwell upon the earth in the

last days. So I slept that night and another, like as he commanded me.